

XI.—*Contributions to the Ornithology of Egypt.*—No. II.
Birds of the Province of Giza. Part 1. By MICHAEL J.
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(Plate IV.)

THE following paper is chiefly based on a collection of birds made by myself during a residence of two and a half years at Giza, supplemented by notes from Captain Flower. I do not offer it as a complete list of all the birds occurring in the Province, as I have only mentioned such species as have come under my personal observation or have been vouched for by competent correspondents and friends, amongst whom I should specially mention Mr. E. W. Buckley, Mr. G. E. Burnett-Stuart, Capt. J. W. H. Seppings, and Capt. J. B. Jenkinson.

Owing to the number of birds on which I have notes it will be necessary to divide the paper into three parts, in the course of which several species will be recorded for the first time from Egypt.

The resident birds of Egypt are few in number as regards species, compared with the migrants, and are somewhat local in their distribution, for which reason it will be seen that several well-known Egyptian forms are not included in my paper.

The Province of Giza extends for some seventy miles along the banks of the Nile, from about seventeen miles north of Cairo to about six miles north of Beni Souf. North of Cairo it is confined to the west bank of the river. Immediately above the town, however, both banks are included, while for about the last seventeen miles it includes the east bank only.

The Province consists of a narrow strip of alluvium, varying from about six miles at its greatest breadth, which is on the west bank only, opposite Cairo, to three and a half miles at Kafr Ammar, where both banks are included. The rest is desert, the highest surveyed point being 330 metres (or 1083 feet) above the Wadi Hof near Helwan.

1. *TURDUS MUSICUS* Linn.

Turdus musicus Shelley, *Birds of Egypt*, p. 66.

The Song-Thrush is a regular winter visitor, arriving in late autumn and remaining till early spring. I have on several occasions counted from twelve to fifteen examples together on one of the lawns in the Giza Zoological Gardens about sunset. During the day they frequent the tops of the various species of *Ficus*, where they feed on the small figs. The examples which I have examined in Egypt are paler above than most British specimens. I have frequently heard the Thrush singing in the Giza Zoological Gardens.

2. *TURDUS ILIACUS* Linn.

The Redwing, which is not mentioned by Shelley or any other writer on Egyptian birds—so far as I can ascertain,—appears to be a winter and spring visitor here in small numbers. I have never met with more than two individuals together. I possess a male specimen, obtained in the Zoological Gardens on March 18th, 1907.

3. *TURDUS PILARIS* Linn.

Turdus pilaris Shelley, p. 65.

The Fieldfare seems to be a rare visitor to Egypt. On November 13th, 1906, I watched an example feeding on one of the lawns in the Zoological Gardens, and on the 21st of that month I saw five individuals flying high over the same part of the Gardens. A few days later I found a number of feathers of a Fieldfare—the bird had evidently been killed by a Sparrow-Hawk.

4. *TURDUS MERULA* Linn., subsp.?

Turdus merula Shelley, p. 66.

The Blackbird is a regular winter visitor to Egypt. In some years it is more numerous than in others. All the individuals that I have met with have been very shy, and in the Zoological Gardens they keep to the thickest bushes and are rarely seen on the lawns.

5. *TURDUS TORQUATUS* Linn.

Turdus torquatus Shelley, p. 67.

I have an adult male Ring-Ousel in winter-plumage, which

I shot on December 9th, 1906, in the Zoological Gardens. It was in company with several others. I have since heard and seen this species on two or three occasions during the winter months.

6. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS* (Linn.).

Monticola saxatilis Shelley, p. 70.

The Rock-Thrush appears to be migratory in the province. I have at present only seen it during the spring migration in April.

7. *MONTICOLA CYANUS* (Linn.).

Monticola cyanus Shelley, p. 70.

I possess two male specimens of the Blue Rock-Thrush—one shot at the Pyramids of Giza on November 9th, 1906, and the other from Abu Roash on April 6th, 1907. I have personally met with this species in spring and autumn in the province of Giza.

8. *SAXICOLA CENANTHE* (Linn.).

Saxicola cenanthe Shelley, p. 71.

The Common Wheatear appears to be a regular spring and autumn migrant, though, so far as I have been at present able to ascertain, it does not visit us in large numbers. On arrival here in autumn the adult birds are in full winter-plumage—the feathers of the upper parts and the wing-coverts and quills are broadly edged with brown. I can at present see no signs of any spring moult in adults of this species; the grey upper parts of the male are assumed by a casting of the brown edges of the feathers of the winter-plumage and the quill-feathers turn entirely black—in adult males—by the same process.

9. *SAXICOLA CENANTHE LEUCORRHOA* Stejneger.

This large form of the Common Wheatear passes through Egypt on both spring and autumn migrations, though it always appears later than the common form. I have from the province of Giza an adult male shot by Capt. J. W. H. Seppings on May 15th, 1907, and an adult male shot by myself on November 17th, 1908.

10. *SAXICOLA ISABELLINA* Rüppell.

Saxicola saltatrix Shelley, p. 72.

The Isabelline Wheatear seems to be resident in Egypt, for I have seen specimens shot in January, February, April, August, September, and December. This species frequents the cultivated lands more than the desert in the Giza Province. It is by far the commonest Wheatear found in the alluvial districts, and it is, in fact, the only Wheatear which is found on cultivated ground throughout the year. It moults in autumn. The sexes are indistinguishable, both as regards size and colour.

11. *SAXICOLA OCCIDENTALIS MELANOLEUCA* Gldenst.

Muscicapa melanoleuca Gldenstadt, Nov. Comp. Petr. xix. p. 468, pl. xv. (1775).

? *Saxicola eurymelana* Shelley, p. 73.

This form of the Black-throated Wheatear, which has the black extending to the upper breast, is a regular spring and autumn visitor to Egypt. I have seen it during both migrations in the province of Giza, but at present the only examples that I have are individuals shot during the autumn migration. A splendid white-backed male frequented the Zoological Gardens for several days during the spring migration of 1907.

12. *SAXICOLA STAPAZINA STAPAZINA*.

Motacilla stapazina Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 331 (1766).

Saxicola aurita Temm. Man. d'Orn. vol. i. p. 241 (1820).

Saxicola amphileuca Shelley, p. 72.

Saxicola stapazina Salvadori, Ibis, 1904, p. 75.

The "Eastern" form of the Black-eared Chat seems to be a regular visitor in spring and autumn. I have examined the following specimens obtained in the Giza Province:—An adult male from Abbassia, April 10th, 1908 (Capt. J. B. Jenkinson); two adult males in full winter-plumage, obtained by myself at Giza, September 14th, 1908.

During the spring migration of 1907 I saw an example of this form in the Zoological Gardens.

In the spring the plumage of the Black-eared Chat becomes so much abraded that the feathers have an almost hair-like texture. There appears to be but one moult—in autumn.

13. *SAXICOLA DESERTI* Rüppell.

Saxicola deserti Shelley, p. 74.

A male of this species frequented the Zoological Gardens for several days during November 1906; on December 11th, 1908, I shot an adult male near the Giza Pyramids, and on February 4th, 1909, I saw several others near the same place.

14. *SAXICOLA LUGENS* Licht.

Saxicola lugens Shelley, p. 77.

This is the most abundant Chat in the desert, where it is resident. I have nine specimens collected at different times of year, from the Giza Pyramids and the Wadi Hof; in the latter place it is abundant. The sexes are superficially alike, but the female has shorter wings and the black is not so intense as that of the male. A young bird (August 11th, 1908) is sandy brown on the crown and upper parts; the wings and throat are, however, black, and at first sight it is possible to take it for an example of *Saxicola deserti*. The tail, however, is always *more* than half white.

In the 'Birds of Egypt' Shelley describes the present species as having the "top of the head and nape pale dusky." This, however, refers to birds in winter-plumage, that is, directly after the autumn moult. In spring these parts, in old males at any rate, are pure white.

15. *SAXICOLA LEUCOPYGIA* Brehm.

Saxicola leucopygia Shelley, p. 79.

At present I have only met with this species in the Wadi Hof. In habits it is very much more shy than *S. lugens*, though the two may be found in the same locality. There are two varieties of this bird. Some examples have the crown of the head white, while in others it is black like the remainder of the upper parts, but the difference does not appear to be due either to sex or season. I have an adult pair with white crowns which I shot in February 1908, an adult and a young bird with black heads obtained in August

of the same year, and three adults also with black heads obtained in December.

Saxicola monacha I have not yet met with.

16. MYRMECOCICHLA MELANURA (Temm.).

On October 9th, 1907, I saw an example at close quarters, perched on a wire fence in the Zoological Gardens (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1908, pp. 201 & 544).

The species had not previously been recorded from Egypt.

17. PRATINCOLA RUBETRA (Linn.).

Pratincola rubetra Shelley, p. 81.

The Whinchat passes through Giza on migration in small numbers in spring and autumn.

18. PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA (Linn.).

Pratincola rubicola Shelley, p. 81.

I have only met with this species during the winter months and have never heard of its occurrence during the summer. We have never met with *P. r. hemprichi*.

19. RUTICILLA PHENICURUS (Linn.).

Ruticilla phœnicurus Shelley, p. 82.

The Redstart is a regular spring and autumn visitor. In autumn it arrives in comparatively small numbers during the early part of September. The first arrivals are nearly always adults in full winter-plumage; the immature birds follow a week or so later. In spring this species makes its appearance in far greater numbers about the middle of March. The first arrivals are invariably old males in full breeding-plumage and are followed later by females and younger birds. The migration lasts well into April.

20. RUTICILLA SEMIRUFA (Hempr. & Ehr.).

Ruticilla semirufa Shelley, p. 84.

I have not personally met with this species up to the present time, but have the skin of an adult male shot by Mr. A. L. Butler, near Giza, on February 16th, 1901. Capt. Flower, who was with Mr. Butler when this example was obtained, informs me that there were several Redstarts about that day.

Doubtless they all belonged to this species, as it was at least a month too early for the arrival of the Common Redstart. Although this example very closely resembles specimens of *R. rufiventris* from India in the British Museum, I have thought it advisable to provisionally place it under the name given above, as it would seem that the present form is the more likely to occur in Egypt.

21. *RUTICILLA TITYS* (Scop.).

Ruticilla titys Shelley, p. 83.

The Black Redstart is a winter visitor in small numbers to the Giza Province.

22. *CYANECULA SUECICA SUECICA*.

Cyanecula suecica, Shelley, p. 85.

The Red-spotted Bluethroat is a regular winter visitor to Giza Province. As regards its plumage and habits I have nothing to add to my former remarks ('Ibis,' 1908, pp. 492-3).

23. *CYANECULA SUECICA LEUCOCYANA* C. L. Brehm.

Cyanecula wolffi Dresser, Man. Pal. Birds, p. 61.

The White-spotted Bluethroat is a winter visitor to Giza, though in much smaller numbers than the typical form.

I use the name *leucocyana* for this form, as the form or variety with an entirely unspotted blue gorget has been called *wolffi*; and although the former name may not be in *strict* accordance with the laws of priority, it seems better not to make "confusion worse confounded."

Of the entirely unspotted form I can say nothing. I have never obtained or seen a specimen in Egypt up to the present time.

24. *ERITHACUS RUBECULA RUBECULA*.

Erithacus rubecula Shelley, p. 87.

This form of the "Robin" is of regular occurrence during the winter months. In some years it appears to be more numerous than in others, but this may be on account of its habits. The Redbreasts met with here are comparatively shy, and in this respect may be compared to the Bluethroats. The song is often heard during the winter.

All the Redbreasts that I have at present examined from Giza belong to the pale-breasted greyish-backed form, which differs considerably from the British *E. rubecula melophilus*.

25. DAULIAS LUSCINIA (Linn.).

Philomela luscinia Shelley, p. 88.

Nightingales begin to arrive in Giza towards the end of March, and for about a fortnight they abound. Great numbers frequent the Zoological Gardens, and I have seen as many as fifteen together close to the verandah of my house. Very soon after their arrival they commence to sing. In the autumn I have only met with this species on three occasions. I think that it is probable that the birds follow a different route on their way south from that taken on the passage northwards in spring. In addition to its song the Nightingale utters in spring a curious shrill squeak, unlike anything I have heard in England.

26. DAULIAS PHILOMELA (Bechst.).

Philomela major Shelley, p. 88.

I have only twice met with the "Sprosser" Nightingale in Egypt. On May 5th, 1907, I watched an example perched on a wire fence in the Zoological Gardens, and on November 1st, 1908, I obtained a specimen at Giza. The latter example had both feet considerably swollen, and this probably had retarded its passage southward.

27. SYLVIA CINEREA Bechst.

Sylvia cinerea Shelley, p. 111.

The Whitethroat appears to be a spring and autumn visitor in very small numbers. I saw a few during April 1907 in the Zoological Gardens, and obtained an adult male on the 12th of that month. I also have an adult female shot by Capt. J. W. H. Seppings on the 17th of April, 1907, at Giza, where I shot another adult male in winter-plumage on September 24th, 1908.

28. SYLVIA CURRUCA (Linn.).

Sylvia curruca Shelley, p. 110.

The Lesser Whitethroat is one of the most abundant

visitors during the spring and autumn migrations. I have frequently heard it singing during the autumn.

29. SYLVIA SUBALPINA Temm.

Sylvia subalpina Shelley, p. 109.

The Subalpine Warbler is a regular visitor in spring, though not in any great numbers. The only record of this species during the autumn is of one example which I saw on November 27th, 1906, in the Zoological Gardens.

30. SYLVIA CONSPICILLATA Temm.

Sylvia conspicillata Shelley, p. 109.

Capt. Shelley inserts this species with "some hesitation," as he did not meet with it in Egypt. Dr. Walter Innes obtained it in the Wadi Hof in the Province of Giza, and in the same place I have found it in February and December 1908.

31. SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA Gm.

Curruca melanocephala Shelley, p. 107.

I have occasionally met with this species in spring and winter in the Zoological Gardens, but have as yet procured no specimens.

32. [SYLVIA MOMUS.

On March 14th, 1907, I watched a bird, which I feel sure was Bowman's Warbler, in my garden, but was unable to obtain it. This species is not mentioned by Capt. Shelley.]

33. SYLVIA ORPHEA Temm.

Curruca orphea Shelley, p. 104.

Two birds which I fancy were Orphean Warblers frequented the Zoological Gardens during November 1906.

I have no specimens of the species from Egypt, and at present agree with Capt. Shelley that it is of rare occurrence in that country.

34. SYLVIA RUEPELLI Temm.

Curruca ruepellii Shelley, p. 106.

Rüppell's Warbler is a common visitor during the spring

migration. It makes its appearance during the last days of March. I have only one record for the autumn—an adult female, which I shot near Giza on August 21st, 1907. I believe this species to have but one moult in the year, namely, in autumn.

35. *SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA* (Linn.).

Curruca atricapilla Shelley, p. 105.

The Blackcap arrives in September, and is one of the few Warblers that spend the winter in the Zoological Gardens. I have frequently heard it singing from November onwards till April, when it takes its departure. This bird moults in autumn, and undoubtedly some individuals moult again completely in spring; I fancy, however, that these are young birds of the previous year. The same remarks as regards moult apply to the Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*).

36. *SYLVIA HORTENSIS* (Gm.).

Curruca hortensis Shelley, p. 104.

I have once or twice seen Garden-Warblers in the Giza Zoological Gardens during the autumn migration, but have no specimens from Egypt.

37. *AËDON GALACTODES* (Temm.).

Aëdon galactodes Shelley, p. 85.

The first Rufous Warblers make their appearance in March. The earliest date on which I have seen one is on the 17th, but the main body do not arrive till April, from which month onward, until they take their departure in September, they are abundant.

38. *PHYLLOSCOPUS BONELLII* (Vieill.).

Phyllopneuste bonellii Shelley, p. 101.

Bonelli's Warbler is a regular visitor in large numbers during the spring migration, and again in much smaller numbers during the autumn movement southward.

39. *PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX* (Bechst.).

Phyllopneuste sylvicola Shelley, p. 101.

The Wood-Wren appears to be a regular visitor in

small numbers during the spring migration. At present I have only met with it in my garden, where during the month of April in 1907 and 1908 a pair or two frequented a mulberry-tree for several days.

40. PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS (Linn.).

Phyllopeda trochilus Shelley, p. 103.

The Willow-Wren arrives in September, but only remains a short time, its winter-quarters evidently being further south. Very few reappear during the spring migration in March and April.

I have not yet met with the northern subspecies *P. trochilus evermanni* (Bp.).

41. PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS RUFUS.

Phyllopeda rufa Shelley, p. 102.

The Chiffchaff arrives during September and spends the winter in Giza. I have heard it in song in November, but the majority do not begin singing before February*. By the end of April all have taken their departure.

Some Chiffchaffs have a moult of the contour feathers in spring, but I have not as yet been able to ascertain whether this is restricted to young birds of the previous year or not.

The first arrivals in autumn of this species are usually adult birds in full winter plumage.

42. PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS, subsp. ?

? *Phylloscopus collybita abietina* Hartert, Vög. d. pal. Fauna, Heft iv. p. 503.

This "northern" form of the Chiffchaff differs from the typical form in its slightly larger size and much whiter under parts; in this respect it stands in the same relation to the typical bird as the Northern Willow-Wren (*P. trochilus evermanni*) does to the Common Willow-Wren (*P. trochilus trochilus*). This subspecies arrives here in October and remains till March. My attention was first drawn to the bird by its extraordinary call-note, which can only be

* After the autumn moult the Chiffchaff and many other Warblers may be heard in song, but this seems to be restricted to adult birds.

described as resembling the "cheep" of a very young chicken in distress; by this it may be easily distinguished from the typical Chiffchaff, and so loud is the note that the bird makes its presence known at some distance. All those that I have met with seem much shyer than the typical form, and consequently are much more difficult to obtain. They are winter residents here, and are smaller and darker than typical specimens.

43. *SCOTOCERCA INQUIETA* (Cretzsch.). (Plate IV.)

Malurus inquietus Cretzschmar, in Rüppell's Atlas.

Curruca fumula Hemp. & Ehrenb. Symb. Phys. fol. bb, 1833.

Drymæca eremita Tristram, Ibis, 1867, p. 76.

Drymæca inquieta Heuglin, Ornith. Nordost-Africa's, vol. i. p. 244.

Scotocerca inquieta innesi Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxi. p. 98 (May 1908).

The Egyptian examples of *Scotocerca* appear to be identical with birds from the typical locality—Sinai, though they are quite distinct from Asiatic specimens. The latter are greyer above and lack the white superciliary stripe of the typical form. The *Scotocerca inquieta innesi* which I described from Egypt must therefore be referred to the typical form. When comparing my examples at the British Museum I—seeing only Asiatic specimens and finding that these were labelled "*Scotocerca inquieta*," and that both Dresser (Man. Pal. Birds, p. 142) and Sharpe ('Hand-list,' vol. iv. p. 234) gave the range of *Scotocerca inquieta* (Cretzsch.) as from Arabia Petrea to N.W. Punjab and N.W. of the Indus—ventured to describe the Egyptian bird as a new form. Dr. Hartert subsequently pointed out my mistake to me and I take this opportunity of correcting it.

The typical *Scotocerca inquieta* is found in Egypt near Cairo, and in Palestine and Sinai, the Persian and Transcaspian birds belonging to distinctly different subspecies.

At present I only know of one locality in Egypt where this "Scrub-Warbler" may be met with, *i. e.* the Wadi Hof, near Helwan in the Giza Province. This Wadi Hof is a



West, Newman imp.

SCOTOCERCA INQUIETA.

See footnote p. 471

rocky valley in the hills. I believe the bird to be a resident in this locality, as I have met with it and obtained examples in February, August, and December. It is extremely wild and shy for a small bird, and specimens are obtained with considerable difficulty. It seldom, if ever, takes refuge in a bush, but flies ahead, occasionally settling on the top of a rock. When hard pressed it invariably either flutters up the steep sides of the valley or flies away out of sight. The call-note of this bird is a shrill chirp and the song a short trill. It is not included in Shelley's 'Birds of Egypt.'

44. *DRYMÆCA GRACILIS DELTÆ* (Rich.).

Drymæca gracilis Shelley, p. 98.

The Graceful Wren-Warbler is resident in the Giza Province. Numbers nest in the Zoological Gardens.

45. *CISTICOLA CISTICOLA* (Temm.).

Cisticola schoenicola Shelley, p. 97.

The Fan-tailed Warbler is abundant and resident in the province.

[46. *HYPOLAIS POLYGLOTTA*.

Phyllopneuste hippolais Shelley, p. 103.

Capt. Shelley did not meet with the Melodious Tree-Warbler in Egypt, and I have no positive record of its occurrence; but I fancy that I have seen it once in September and once in March in the Giza Zoological Gardens.]

47. *HYPOLAIS PALLIDA* (Hempr. & Ehr.).

Hypolais elæica Shelley, p. 100.

The Olivaceous Tree-Warbler is the most abundant of our breeding birds. The first individuals appear towards the end of March and at once begin singing. The song at first resembles that of the Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus streperus*), but after the birds have been here a few weeks their notes become richer. I believe the Olivaceous Warbler to have two moults in the year. The nests are placed in a variety of situations, usually in tall clumps of flowering plants or shrubs, but I have found several in the lower branches of fir-trees and one in a branch of *Bougainvillia* overhanging water. By the end of October all the birds have taken their

departure. I have eleven specimens of this species from Giza; in all of them the tarsi and toes are lead-coloured with a tinge of brown.

48. *LOCUSTELLA NÆVIA* (Bodd.).

On September 28th, 1907, I saw a Grasshopper-Warbler in the Zoological Gardens. I have no other record of the species from Giza or Egypt. Capt. Shelley does not mention it.

49. *ACROCEPHALUS PHRAGMITIS* (Bechst.).

Calamodyta schœnobœnus Shelley, p. 91.

During the autumn migration (September 1908) I found great numbers of Sedge-Warblers in the cotton-fields near Giza, and obtained a pair of adults and one immature example.

50. *ACROCEPHALUS MELANOPOGON* (Temm.).

Calamodyta melanopogon Shelley, p. 93.

I saw one example of this species outside the Zoological Gardens on August 23rd, 1907. This is the only occasion on which I have seen it in the Province of Giza.

Some six years ago Dr. P. L. Selater shewed me the skin of an example which he had shot close to the same place.

51. *ACROCEPHALUS AQUATICUS* (Gm.).

Calamodyta aquatica Shelley, p. 92.

I saw an undoubted Aquatic Warbler near Giza, in a patch of cotton, on November 17th, 1908.

52. *ACROCEPHALUS STENTOREUS* (Hempr. & Ehr.).

Acrocephalus stentoreus Shelley, p. 95.

The Clamorous Great Reed-Warbler is probably a resident in Egypt. I have only one record from the Province of Giza. I saw an example in the Gardens of the Government Aquarium in the autumn of 1907.

53. *ACROCEPHALUS TURDOIDES* (Meyer).

Acrocephalus turdoides Shelley, p. 96.

Capt. Shelley did not meet with this Great Reed-Warbler in Egypt. I have an adult male which I shot in the Province

of Giza on August 25th, 1907. On the same day I saw numbers of Red-backed Shrikes (*Lanius collurio*) and imagine that the Reed-Warbler had arrived from Europe in their company. It is certainly only a visitor to Egypt on migration, its place being taken in this country by *A. stentoreus*. The present species may be at once distinguished from the resident bird by its deeper and stronger bill.

54. ACROCEPHALUS STREPERUS (Vicill.).

Calamoherpe arundinacea Shelley, p. 94.

The only record that I have of this species in the Giza Province is of two individuals seen on August 23rd, 1907, by myself just outside the walls of the Zoological Gardens, in a bed of bulrushes.

55. SITTA sp.

On February 10th, 1903, a Nuthatch was seen by Capt. Flower in the Zoological Gardens.

56. MOTACILLA BOARULA BOARULA.

Motacilla sulphurea Shelley, p. 127.

Motacilla boarula boarula Hartert, Vög. d. pal. Fauna, Heft iii. p. 298.

The European Grey Wagtail arrives in Giza in the autumn and remains until the following spring. I have never seen it in large numbers. A pair or two may be met with daily during the winter in the Zoological Gardens. I have seen examples with the black throats of summer plumage in March.

57. MOTACILLA ALBA Linn.

Motacilla alba Shelley, p. 126.

The White Wagtail arrives in Giza during the beginning of October, and the first to arrive are nearly always adult birds in full winter plumage. A very short time elapses before the immature birds put in an appearance, and from that time onwards until April this species is most abundant. Large numbers frequent the Zoological Gardens, and I have frequently seen them singing while perched on the tops of some of the cages and buildings. This species has a moult of the

contour feathers in spring, but I do not think that the quills are shed then. Capt. Jenkinson informs me that in March 1908 he saw an almost pure white example near Mazghouna in the Giza Province.

58. *MOTACILLA CITREOLA* Pall.

I include this Wagtail among the birds of Giza on the strength of a single immature example shot by Capt. J. W. H. Seppings, not far from the Pyramids, on September 18th, 1907, and now in my collection. I have matched this example with specimens in the British Museum. It was doubtless a straggler, as the winter-quarters of the species are much further to the eastward. It is not unlikely, however, that wanderers should occasionally reach Egypt, as specimens have been obtained as far west as Heligoland and in Italy.

59. *MOTACILLA FLAVA FLAVA*.

Motacilla flava Shelley, p. 128.

The Blue-headed Wagtail is a common visitor during the autumn and spring migrations. I have several specimens shot in September at Giza.

[60. *MOTACILLA FLAVA BOREALIS*.

Though Capt. Shelley does not mention this form as occurring in Egypt, and though I have up to the present time obtained no examples here, I include it amongst the birds of Giza, as there can be no doubt of its occurrence on migration. Hartert (*Vög. d. pal. Fauna*, Heft iii. p. 292) mentions it as occurring in Egypt, and I have a skin of an adult male procured by Mr. A. L. Butler in Khartoum in autumn. Up to the present time I have had little opportunity of collecting migrating Wagtails in Egypt, and though thousands pass through the Province of Giza, even within a mile of the Zoological Gardens, I have seldom seen them actually inside the walls.]

61. *MOTACILLA FLAVA MELANOCEPHALA*.

Motacilla melanocephala Shelley, p. 130.

The Black-headed Wagtail is a regular spring and autumn

visitor on migration. Great numbers pass during both migrations.

Adult males in autumn plumage have the greater part of the black head obscured by the greenish edges of the feathers. One-year-old males in spring are almost exactly similar in appearance.

I have not yet met with *M. f. melanogrisea* (Hom.).

62. MOTACILLA FLAVA PYGMÆA (Brehm).

Budytes pygmaeus A. E. Brehm, J. f. O. 1854, p. 74.

? *Budytes cinereocapilla* Shelley, p. 129.

Motacilla flava pygmæa Nicoll, Ibis, 1908, p. 495.

This small form, which appears to be nearest to *M. f. cinereocapilla*, is, I believe, a resident in the Giza Province. I have seen specimens obtained from September to May; those obtained during the latter month were feeding young.

Capt. Shelley remarks on the difference of measurement between his "*Budytes cinereocapilla*" and *B. flava* from Egypt, and for this reason I believe that his specimens of *M. cinereocapilla* are referable to the present form. I have not yet obtained the true *Motacilla flava cinereocapilla* in Egypt.

This bird does not appear to have a spring moult, all examples that I have obtained in spring are in much worn plumage.

63. ANTHUS TRIVIALIS (Linn.).

Anthus plumatus Shelley, p. 130.

The Tree-Pipit is a regular visitor during both spring and autumn migrations.

64. ANTHUS PRATENSIS (Linn.).

Anthus pratensis Shelley, p. 131.

The Meadow-Pipit appears to be a regular winter visitor in some numbers. It arrives in autumn and remains till the spring.

65. ANTHUS CERVINUS (Pall.).

Anthus cervinus Shelley, p. 131.

The Red-throated Pipit winters in very large numbers in

the Province. As regards the habits and plumages of this species I have nothing to add to my former remarks ('Ibis,' 1908, pp. 495-6).

66. ANTHUS SPIPOLETTA COUTELLII.

Anthus spinolettus Shelley, p. 132.

Anthus spinoletta coutellii Hartert, Vög. d. pal. Fauna, Heft iii. p. 281.

This form of the Water-Pipit is an abundant winter visitor to the Province. It arrives in autumn and remains till April.

67. ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS (Linn.).

Anthus campestris Shelley, p. 134.

The Tawny Pipit appears to be resident in the Province. I have never found the nest, but this is no doubt owing to lack of opportunity. I have obtained immature examples in first plumage in autumn and adults in winter and spring.

68. ANTHUS RICHARDI Vieill.

The only example that I know to have been obtained in the Province is an adult male shot by myself on November 17th, 1908, near Giza. For the recorded occurrences of this species in Egypt, *cf.* 'Ibis,' 1908, p. 496.

[To be continued.]

XII.—*A Note on Molpastes magrathi Whitehead.*

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plates V. & VI.)

THE Editors have asked me to write a few words on the curious species of Bulbul which Lieut. C. H. T. Whitehead has lately named after Major H. A. F. Magrath (see Whitehead, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 48 (1908); *id.* Ibis, 1909, p. 114).

Thanks to Lieut. Whitehead and Major Magrath, the British Museum contains an ample series of specimens of the Bubluls which have served for the interesting essay they have written on these forms.